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Do you “ACCESSNebraska”?

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Have you ever wondered if you're eligible for public assistance benefits like SNAP (food stamps), energy assistance, Medicaid, Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled (AABD cash assistance), or Social Services Block Grant programs like meals, chore assistance, transportation?

People are finding “ACCESSNebraska” -- our new way of checking if you're eligible and applying electronically for those public assistance benefits -- very convenient.

We've had a great response to ACCESSNebraska. In December 2010, 54 percent of the applications for public assistance came in electronically.

You can go to www.ACCESSNebraska.ne.gov to apply. Use the handy self-screening tool to see if you're eligible for various programs, then fill out the application and submit it electronically.

Don't have a computer yourself? Don't worry. You can apply from any computer with Internet access—at home, your friend's house, the library, community action agencies, senior centers, and at many DHHS offices.

Last December, 69% of the electronic applications were completed at home, at a family member or friend's home, or at work.

If you're currently receiving benefits, you can re-apply, report any changes or update your information electronically. Many nursing homes and assisted living facilities are using the “change” option to let us know when a customer moves in or out, too.

If you'd prefer not to use this electronic option, DHHS will always offer the option of talking to someone face to face. Just call 1-800-383-4278 to make an appointment.

For more information on any public assistance program, visit the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' website at www.dhhs.ne.gov and search for the program name.